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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN EDWARDS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we praise You for Your love that embraces us and gives us security, Your joy that uplifts us and gives us resiliency, Your peace that floods our hearts and gives us serenity, Your Spirit that fills us and gives us strength and endurance.

Be with us, Lord, so we can maximize the hours of this week. Help us to think clearly without confusion, to speak honestly without rancor, to debate without division, and to decide courageously without contention. May our rhetoric honor You and deal with issues and not personalities. Grant the Senators Your grace to work this week as patriots who love You and count it a high privilege to serve as leaders of our beloved Nation. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN EDWARDS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 5, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JOHN EDWARDS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. EDWARDS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning the Senate is going to resume consideration of the energy reform bill. The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party conferences.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL LABORATORIES PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 517, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 517) to authorize funding the Department of Energy to enhance its mission

areas through technology transfer and partnerships for fiscal years 2002 through 2006, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Daschle/Bingaman amendment No. 2917, as modified, in the nature of a substitute.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the energy bill is laid down this morning—which it has been—there be a period for debate only until 12:30 p.m. today, the time we recess for the party conferences; further, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 today the pending amendment be further modified by Senator DASCHLE or his designee with the changes that are at the desk, and that no further modifications be in order to the substitute. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that following that modification the amendment be printed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARPER). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate is today finally proceeding to consider the Energy Policy Act of 2002. The fact that we are at this point in our deliberations is the result of a tremendous amount of work involving several committees in the Senate.

I think the committee with the largest stake in the development of this legislation is, of course, the Committee of Energy and Natural Resources, which I am privileged to chair and of which Senator MURKOWSKI is the ranking member at this point.

We have held over 50 hearings in the 106th and 107th Congresses that are related to today's bill. I express appreciation to Senator MURKOWSKI, the ranking member, who chaired many of these hearings.

I believe we have a good understanding of the issues that are forming this debate and that are at stake in this debate. Many of the elements in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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